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46

To: Kristen Brown, FSIS Docket Office
Fax #: (202) 205-0381
Re: President's Council on Food Safety
Date: November 3, 1998
Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

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Please include the attached comment/letter to Dr. Morris Potter, CDC, from Donna U. Yogi, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, in the docket file as part of the President's Council on Food Safety comments. This comment was handed to me by Dr. Potter at the Sacramento, CA regional PCFS meeting held on October 20, 1998.

Thanks.

Date: _____ No. of pages: _____

[illegible]

I've now tried 5 times to send you **this** message via **e-mail** but have **been** **unsuccessful**. Could you **t-mail** me back when you **get** this and **perhaps** I **can** capture your **postbox** that way. **I have no idea why this informal note** has **not** gone through.

I decided to explain **informally** my thinking about **the** “vision” statement because I’m not **very** good at coming up **with** vision **statements** and **I** know they are **very** hard to do.

After thinking about it, I feel that it is a poorly written goal statement rather than a “vision” statement because I would want it to be either much shorter (i.e., We will try to have “de” food for all U.S. consumers) or much longer where someone who knows nothing about food safety would understand some of the relationships that are needed to accomplish the goal of safe food

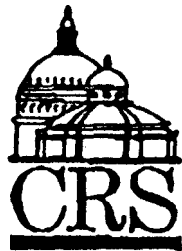
Here are some of the problems I see with the **current vision** statement. I don't **understand the** phrase, "**a seamless food safety** system" Obviously that presupposes that consumers know that **there are** more than 12 **agencies and** state and local governments involved. Who are **they** kidding? **It will** never be seamless. On **the** other hand, it is **a great goal but could really** only **be addressed** by revamping **the** statutory **authorities** for **all the** different agencies to allow them to carry out the four functions stated. (I think I would **have** put surveillance first because that's how the food safety **problem** is defined.)

The next three sentences confuse me. Why are all these thoughts thrown together. We are aware of new and emergent threats. We should be tracking them. Threats are what. Water, Food, Soil, bugs? I don't know but I am left hanging by this sentence. Yes, consider the needs of vulnerable populations but how is that related to emergent threats of what? The next sentence is a killer. We use science- and risk-based approaches to what???? to the problems of food safety...to the problems of contaminants in food....to decide what foods are causing health problems? I don't know. Why is this clause then linked with "along with public/private partnerships.* Approaches and partnerships of what?

Thea **another killer** “Food is **safe** because **everyone** understands **and accepts** their responsibilities.” OK I don’t like how it is constructed. I do believe that everyone who **handles food** along the continuum of **farm** to table should accept **some** responsibility for passing on safe food but “because”? Where does **this** come in?

Those are my **thoughts** about **this** vision statement. Yes they are negative but hopefully they **will** help you in your thinking. Also I **think** that one of the **goals of achieving food safety** is to raise **everyone's quality of life...around the** world. If there is any trickle down development for **the third** world and safer water because the United States won't **let** in food **that** is not **safe** then all **the** more **reason** for the US. vision statement to **state** just that. I **believe** that **where there** is a market for **safe** food and clean water **then** the **world's** population will benefit

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Date: 10/8/98

Facsimile Cover Page

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